

LEAGUE MAY ASK FOR REFERENDUM ON STATE-WIDE

President's Address Accepted as Keynote of Its Policy.

LITTLE SENTIMENT FOR LOCAL OPTION

Criticism of Governor for Not Stoutly Supporting Strode Act Heartily Applauded.

Legislative Committee, at Late Hour, Still Wrestling With Its Report.

BY ALEXANDER FORWARD.

Newport News, Va., February 21.—Voicing what is universally accepted by the delegates to the tenth annual convention of the Anti-Saloon League of Virginia as the keynote of the policy of the league for the coming year, President Henry Pearce Atkins, in his annual address to-night, advocated a referendum on state-wide prohibition. He asked for new determination, more men and more money to carry out this program before the General Assembly of 1912.

Mr. Atkins' address was listened to with profound attention and was heartily applauded. Especially general was the applause when he expressed his "keen disappointment that our Governor's voice was not heard loud and clear when the Strode enabling act was before the Senate in January."

The legislative committee was not ready to report at to-night's meeting, and that portion of the program was dispensed with. The committee went into a session at the conclusion of the address of John G. Woolley, and at a late hour was still wrestling with the details of the report.

In some quarters it is believed that this committee, in reporting on its efforts to secure the passage of the enabling act, will indulge in a recital of the members of the General Assembly who voted against it, while others say that the report will be entirely mild in tone and will merely relate the circumstances of the fight.

Will Declare for Referendum.

The nature of the report, however, is the most surprising. So far as I can learn, there is no dissent from the opinion that the league will again declare for a referendum on state-wide prohibition. There is little talk of a return to the local option method of dealing with the situation, and there is no suggestion that the league should ask the Legislature for the statutory prohibition, without reference to a popular vote.

Action by the convention may, however, take the form of a demand for a referendum on the enabling act, as was the case in the Strode bill, that the voters of the State shall call the election.

Argument for State Prohibition as Keynote.

An argument for State prohibition as the keynote of the league's policy was presented at to-night's meeting by Rev. J. L. Light of Front Royal, in his response to the address of welcome. Referring to the motto of the convention, "Virginia Dry," Mr. Light said the league would proceed to carry out its program in its own way and in its own time, unmoved by partisan criticism. If the principle of majority rule, he argued, as applied to local option, was a sound one, it should apply to the State at large.

Mr. Light recalled the fact that for the local option election in Fredericksburg three years ago, when some of those who now argue for local option were trying to prevent an expression of the people of that city. He also talked of the fact that, where he said, the enemies of the Anti-Saloon League are trying to prevent the enactment of a local option law. His argument was that the league was driven to this policy by the prohibition laws, which led to the War of 1812, as an illustration, saying that the liquor interests would not observe the law, and they shipped their product into communities which had elected to vote out the saloon.

"The other answer," he concluded, "is war—war against the saloon in Virginia."

Bill at Local Option.

A hit at the local option talk was also made by Rev. E. T. Wellford, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Newport News, in which the meeting was held. He said that when there was a boy in Richmond "the time-honored policy of the Democratic party was anything but local option, which was then advocated only by a few preachers and fanatics. Mr. Wellford predicted that within five years "the time-honored policy" of the Democratic party in Virginia would be prohibition.

But all local option sentiment has not been abandoned. Some of it may be heard in the meeting. Governor Mann is to preside at Thursday night's meeting, and it is possible he may have something to say. President Atkins recalled, in his address, that the Governor at last year's meeting of the league referred to the financial condition of the State in this connection, and if the executive makes an address his utterances will be of great importance.

Mr. Atkins predicted that the Legislature of 1912 would grant the enabling act, which it defeated in 1910. He said it would be history in 1913. Nobody in his senses, he said, ever thought prohibition can prohibit, but he believed that a prohibition statute, with the munition of a Stubbs behind it, could do as much for Virginia as it has done for Kansas. He referred to the resignations of Rev. J. A. Taylor and Rev. James Connors, from the religious exercises, and Maryus Jones, Mayor of Newport News, welcomed the convention to this city.

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SENATE WILL VOTE FOR RECIPROCITY

Senator Carter Confident Measure Will Pass.

IN CONFERENCE WITH PRESIDENT

Personally Opposed to Agreement, but Believes It Will Be Ratified—Measure May Be Reported Without Recommendation by Committee To-Day.

Washington, D. C., February 21.—If an extra session of Congress is called following the adjournment of the present session March 4 next, the Democrats of the House will set about at once to revise several schedules of the Payne-Aldrich tariff act.

An authoritative statement to this effect was given out to-day by Representative Underwood, of Alabama, who already has been selected as the chairman of the new Committee on Ways and Means. It was made to correct an erroneous report which was gained circulation during the past week that if an extra session is called the Democrats in the House will not begin the work of revising the tariff in absolutely unfettered hands.

"The statement that if an extra session is called the Democrats in the House will not begin the work of revising the tariff in absolutely unfettered hands," said the Representative, "is absolutely untrue. We go into an extra session of the House unquestionably will pass some tariff bills revising some of the schedules of the Payne act downward before it adjourns."

Washington, D. C., February 21.—The reciprocity agreement with Canada will pass the Senate. This was a declaration made to-day by Senator Carter, of Montana, as he was leaving the White House after a conference with President Taft. Personally Senator Carter is opposed to the measure, but he believes it will be ratified.

President Taft is making few engagements for next week, that being the last week of this session of Congress, and the one in which the great fight for the Canadian reciprocity bill will have its termination, unless there is to be an extra session.

In Touch With Senator.

A number of invitations have been declined that the President may have his own extra session of Congress with Senate leaders if the situation should demand.

The President is keeping up his interest in the reciprocity fight by talks with Senators. The two Senators most interested in the reciprocity fight are Senators Hale, of Maine, and Heyburn, of Idaho. It was stated to-day that Senator Heyburn is working overtime to accumulate facts and figures for a big filibuster.

Is Prepared to Talk for Many Hours, Even Days.

He is prepared to talk for many hours, even days, if he can get some help. The people of his State are said to be with him.

The fact that Senator Aldrich has expressed his opinion that the Canadian reciprocity bill should be passed, and an extra session of Congress avoided, is being used by the friends of the bill as an asset in its behalf. The reasons which led Senator Aldrich to this opinion are familiar to all Senators, and it remains for them to exercise their own judgment in concurrence or not.

May Be Reported To-Day.

The belief was stronger to-day than yesterday even, that the reciprocity bill will pass, and that there will be an extra session of Congress. However, it is very much of a hair-trigger proposition at this time, and there are still opportunities for the bungler who "didn't know it was loaded" to waste the charge.

It is thought that the bill will be brought in by the Finance Committee to-morrow or next day, possibly with an extra recommendation. The belief is general that if the bill can be brought to a vote it will pass, and there is good reason to expect a vote in the Senate.

In fact, the backbone of opposition to the bill was thought to have been broken when the Finance Committee announced that it would not delay reporting the bill to the Senate. The hopes of the opponents rested with the committee, with the possibility of withholding action there, since it was known that a majority of the committee was unfavorably disposed to the bill.

But the same pressure which will bring the bill out of the committee is expected to bring the majority vote in the Senate, and the advocates of the legislation are in a very comfortable frame of mind as to their ability to secure a vote.

Attack on James J. Hill.

A letter charging that James J. Hill, of the Great Northern Railway, was interested in the Canadian reciprocity agreement because the railway would profit greatly from reciprocity with Canada was read in the Senate to-day. Mr. Gronna, the new Insurance Senator from North Dakota, sent the letter to the secretary's desk and had it read. The letter was from R. T. Kingman, of Hillsboro, N. D., it sharply criticized Mr. Hill because of a recent speech by that gentleman.

Mr. Kingman charged in effect that the railroad man had been in Washington when the treaty was negotiated. The letter was full of startling statements, among them one to the effect that "the old man is getting childish," another that his statements in support of the treaty were "an insult to the

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GALLERIES HISS SENATOR BAILEY

First Demonstration of Its Kind Ever Made in Senate.

DAY GIVEN OVER TO LORIMER CASE

Rebuke for Applause Given to Crawford by Spectators Causes Expression Toward Texas Senator—Beveridge Will Conclude To-Day After Lorimer Is Heard.

Washington, D. C., February 21.—Shrilly rising above the expiring applause with which the galleries had greeted a comment reflecting upon the intelligence of those occupying them, a long, sibilant hiss floated over the chamber of the United States Senate to-day. So far as many who have long been connected with it could hear, it never before had a hiss been heard at once so general.

The incident followed a remark by Senator Bailey, of Texas. Senator Crawford, of South Dakota, had made a statement bearing upon the Lorimer case, and brought forth an expression of approval from on-looking opponents of the Illinois Senator, who sat in the gallery.

"No applause will be permitted from those in the galleries," said the Vice-President severely.

"The applause," said the Texas Senator, "was in connection with the Crawford, 'is a fair measure of the intelligence of the audience.' From that portion of the audience that had not joined in the previous applause came a slight outburst, despite the presiding officer's caution, but as it trailed, out came the hiss."

No notice was taken of the incident by Senators or officers of the body.

Beveridge Does Not Finish.

The day in the Senate largely was given over to Mr. Beveridge, who discussed the Lorimer case. He did not conclude, and suspended with the understanding that he would continue to-morrow afternoon, after the conclusion of Mr. Lorimer's speech in his own behalf. Senator Burrows, in charge of the question in behalf of the Committee on Privileges and Elections, had previously given notice that after the conclusion of Mr. Lorimer's speech, he would ask that a vote be taken.

There was general acquiescence in this plan until it was found that Mr. Beveridge could not well conclude to-night.

The most spirited part of to-day's discussion came toward the close of the Beveridge speech, and was begun by Mr. Gallinger. He interrogated Mr. Beveridge as to the source of the money which the latter had freely admitted had been used in the Lorimer election. Mr. Beveridge replied that it had been received from Brown, Broderick and Wilson.

"But where did Brown, Broderick and Wilson get it?" persisted Mr. Gallinger. Mr. Beveridge confessed that he suggested the money, and to assist him somewhat, the New Hampshire Senator suggested that as the men who had confessed to receiving the money were "a band of liars," no one could tell whether there was any foundation for their charges in this instance.

In the interconnection Mr. Bailey undertook to show that nothing had developed to connect Mr. Lorimer with the use of money in the election. He mentioned it as a curious fact that this was the first case in the Senate of the kind, in which there had been no effort to find the source from which the money alleged to have been used had been derived.

Mr. Crawford then entered the controversy. "It makes no difference where the money came from," he said. "If it was used for corrupt purposes and an election resulted from its use."

A burst of applause resounded from the galleries. The chair admonished the visitors that demonstrations of the kind are not permitted by the Senate.

"Oh," exclaimed Mr. Bailey, who accepted the manifestation as against his position; "it is a fair measure of the intelligence of the audience." Then the hiss was heard.

Declaring that there was not a scintilla of evidence connecting Mr. Lorimer with the charge of bribery, Mr. Bailey asked Mr. Beveridge if he believed that Brown, Broderick and Wilson had supplied the money, and the Indiana Senator replied in the negative, expressing the opinion that it had been furnished to them.

The Texas Senator then declared that if there had actually been money in the possession of Holstlaw, Beckemeyer, Link and White, its source easily could have been traced. No effort had been made, he said, to show that 5 cents had been drawn from Lorimer's bank, and he argued that if money had been used for Mr. Lorimer, the bank books would have shown this fact.

"That position is against every rule of common sense," declared Mr. Crawford, interrupting the Texas Senator. "The burden of proof is not on those making the charge; the presumption is that the money was furnished by the transaction."

Mr. Bailey was just as complimentary in his response. "When the Senator suggests a resort to the rule of common sense he should not violate such rules himself," he said. The trouble he urged was that he was assumed that money had been used as the witnesses had charged, which he did not believe to have been the case.

"Then," said Mr. Beveridge, "it was all a dream."

"No, not a dream; it was all a lie," responded Mr. Bailey.

Does not the Senator believe that the Holstlaw deposited the \$2,500, as appears in evidence?" Mr. Bailey was asked by Mr. Beveridge, and he promptly replied that he did not.

"What motive could have prompted the testimony?" the Indian demand.

"The same motive that caused others to want to destroy Mr. Lorimer's character," was Mr. Bailey's explanation.

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CITY OFFERS BECK MORE PAY TO KEEP HIM IN PRESENT JOB

Railway Company Wants Inspector as Its Chief Engineer.

POLLARD URGES COUNCIL TO ACT

Two Committees Agree to Raise Salary to \$3,600 in Order to Retain Services of This Official Who Has Made Excellent Record as Building Inspector.

Building Inspector Henry P. Beck was yesterday offered the position as chief engineer for the Virginia Railway and Power Company, made vacant by the resignation of Calvin Whiteley, Jr., who has accepted a similar position in Baltimore. Mr. Beck has the matter under advisement, and had no statement to make last night as to his action.

Realizing the great loss to the city, were he to retire from the Building Department, especially at this time, when there is much important construction work in progress in all parts of the city, prompt action was taken last night by the Council Committees on Finance and on Ordinance, Charter and Reform with a view of increasing the salary paid by the city. The street railway company offers \$3,600 per year, and the committees recommended that the city meet the price, increasing the Building Inspector from his present salary of \$2,500 per year.

Was Not Solicited.

The action of the Virginia Railway and Power Company came as a surprise to the Building Inspector, and was not solicited by him. He was first approached on the subject by Vice-President Fritz Sitterding on Monday, and a formal offer was made to him yesterday morning. Mr. Beck is an engineer of long and practical experience. He was for several years an assistant engineer in the office of former Chief Engineer Cuthaw. Later he opened an office for general engineering, doing work for the Richmond and Henrico Railway in connection with the foundations and preliminary surveys for the Marshall Street Railway and Development Company, and various times for the Virginia Railway and Power Company and its predecessors, building several of the dams in James River, and supervising construction of the Twelfth Street power house, built by the Virginia Electrical Railway and Development Company, now the chief power house for the Virginia Railway and Power Company's system, and in some regards a piece of unique construction. It was the first all-reinforced concrete building to be erected in Richmond, and because of its location and manner of construction, is probably more absolutely fire-proof than any other building in the city.

Was in Board of Aldermen.

Many years ago Mr. Beck served in the Common Council, and in later years was a member of the Board of Aldermen from the same section, serving until under the rearrangement of ward lines, that ward was abolished. He was a member of the building committee during the construction of the city settling basins. He was elected by the Council to the office of Building Inspector when it was created in 1907.

At that time the city had no building code, and only the most lax methods of regulating the building construction. Under the leadership of Mr. Beck a special commission was appointed, composed of architects, builders and citizens, which drew up the present building code of the city, and Mr. Beck has been steadily working out a definite organization for his office until it is one of the best maintained in the city government.

Issues Monthly Report.

Since his organization it has never once failed to balance on the last day of the month, and issue for publication an accurate report of the volume of building operations in the city, and for the corresponding month of the previous year. The office force now consists of one clerk and three deputy inspectors, and the methods of keeping the records and division of the work are regarded as models.

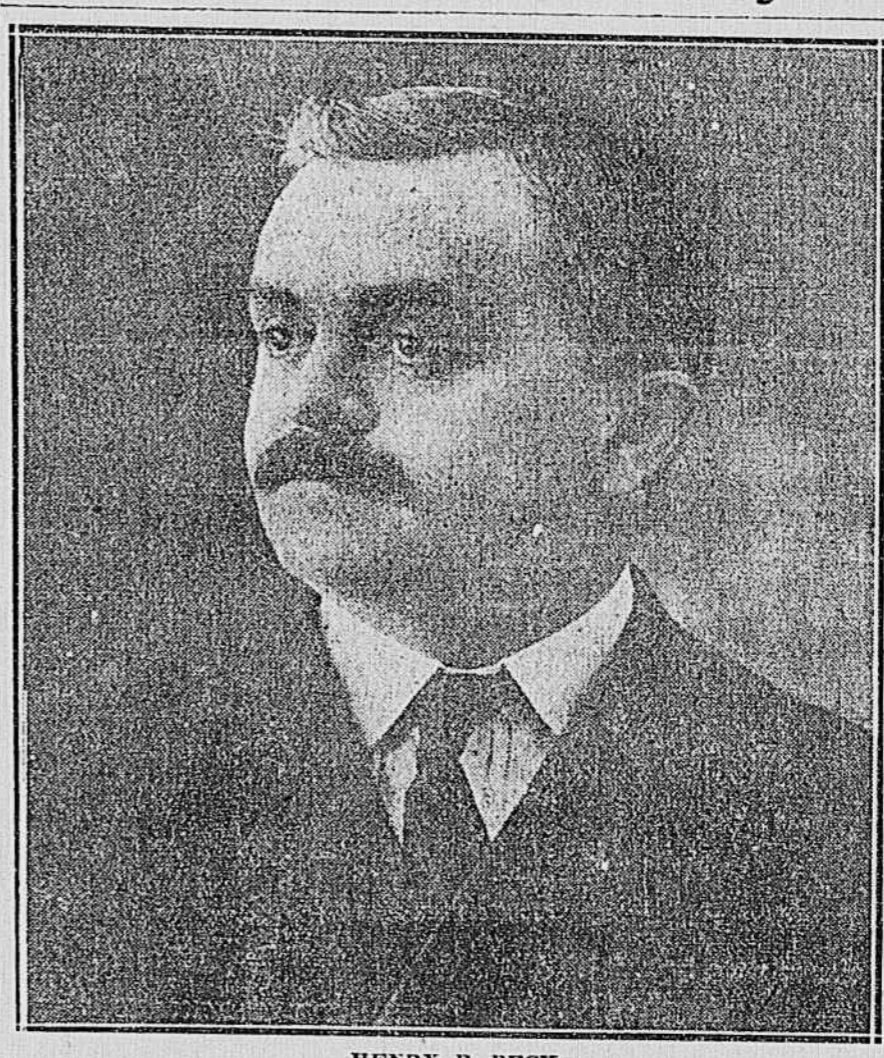
Mr. Beck has worked hard, early and late, keeping his office open in busy seasons far into the night, checking over plans, and has won general approval by his impartiality in many instances. Without favor to Councilman or citizen he has adhered to the rules, reporting violations to the Police Court and condemning faulty work and unsafe buildings without fear or favor. Building operations in the city have not doubled since the office was organized, last year's report having greatly exceeded the year before, while January and February this year from the totals on exhibit in Mr. Beck's office, are far in advance of the same months last year.

Pollard Takes Initiative.

So realizing what it would mean to lose such an officer, and that it would take many months to break in any new man, however well trained, Chairman H. R. Pollard, of the Council Committee on Finance, who for the past three or four years has led the fight in the Council against "salary grabbing," and has been known as the "watch-dog of the treasury," opposing bond issues and unnecessary expenditures, took the initiative in securing immediate action that would assure Mr. Beck of the city's appreciation of his work, and if possible to keep him in the post in which he has proved so successful.

Mr. Pollard brought the matter to the attention of the Committee yesterday last night. Under the rules that committee can originate no action not authorized by the Council, but every member save one was of the opinion that Mr. Beck was worth as much or more to the city as he is to a corporation. Without committing themselves to the office.

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HENRY P. BECK.

COX INDICTED ON PERJURY CHARGE

Action by Grand Jury Against Cincinnati Republican "Boss."

GIVES BAIL IN SUM OF \$1,000

He Declares It a Political Move, and Asks Public to Withhold Judgment.

Cincinnati, Ohio, February 21.—Geo. B. Cox, for years head of the Republican organization in Cincinnati, a prominent factor in State and national politics, president of the Cincinnati Trust Company, and known widely as an owner of theatrical property, to-day was indicted by the Hamilton county grand jury on a charge of perjury.

The basis of the charge is that Cox, allegedly, testified falsely before the grand jury on March 21, 1906, in denying that he received any of the interest money which several banks, according to the disclosures before the Drake investigating committee, paid to county treasurers as recompense for the deposit of county funds.

The specific case on which the jury acted occurred in the administration of John H. Gibson, who served two terms as county treasurer, from 1900 to 1904. Gibson testified before the grand jury yesterday that Cox received \$45,000 of the \$75,000, which the banks gave Gibson as "gratuities" during the latter's service.

Gibson paid \$57,000 into the county treasury in 1906, following an investigation by the grand jury of the Drake disclosures. Two other treasurers, Tilden R. French and Rudolph H. Hynd, respectively, paid \$25,450 and \$58,440 to the county.

Bail Fixed at \$1,000.

Prosecuting Attorney Henry T. Hunt recommended to Judge Gorman that bail be fixed at \$1,000. The required bond was given by Cox, with Abraham Furst as surety.

No date for Cox's appearance in court was set.

Mr. Cox in speaking of the indictment said:

"I do not regard this as an indictment in the true sense of such action. It was purely a political move, and was brought about by political conditions."

"The jury which brought the indictment was selected by a Democratic judge who drew the names of the grand jurors from his inside pocket, instead of from the jury wheel, as the law requires."

"The people, irrespective of politics, know, I believe, that never in my career have I been accused of telling a falsehood. I regard the action of the grand jury as one of the most serious attacks and one of the most outrageous procedures emanating from a body connected with a court. I will leave my side of this affair to the facts, as brought out in the trial. In the meantime, I ask the public to suspend judgment."

The law under which the grand jury returned the indictment provides that in case of conviction for perjury, the penalty shall be imprisonment for not more than ten years, nor less than three.

TENDERED TO DAWSON

President Asks Iowa Representative to Become His Private Secretary.

Washington, D. C., February 21.—The President has tendered to Representative Albert E. Dawson, of Iowa, the office of secretary to the President, but Mr. Dawson has not yet communicated to the President whether he would accept the office. It is understood that Mr. Dawson is still considering the tender and that the indications are that he will not find it feasible to accept the office.

LECKY WILL NOT BE MADE SCAPEGOAT

Denies Responsibility for Condition of Insurance Company.

HIS RESIGNATION WAS VOLUNTARY

Points Out That Directors Have Not Put Up \$133,000 Additional Capital, but Have Repaid Themselves \$91,000 and Added Only \$42,000 to Assets.

Robert Lecky, Jr., gave out yesterday a statement in reply to an article about the reorganization of the Virginia State Fire Insurance Company, which The Times-Dispatch printed on Sunday on information furnished it by the State Insurance Bureau, and an authorized officer of the company.

In that article it was stated that directors had put up \$133,000 in cash to carry out the plan of reorganization.

Mr. Lecky says in his statement, however, that "the reorganization of the company repays \$91,000 to the directors, and adds \$12,000 to the assets of the company." It is explained that this \$10,000 in question is to be paid back to the directors, or changed from a contribution to stock purchase—evidently with the approval of Insurance Commissioner Burton, who worked with the directors and endorsed the reorganization plan.

In his letter to the stockholders, under date of February 18 last, in which he offered his resignation as vice-president—his resignation as secretary and manager going to the board of directors—Mr. Lecky said:

"At the meeting of all of the directors held immediately following your annual meeting, January 28 last, all of the officers and directors voluntarily offered to place their resignations before this special meeting, with a view of facilitating a reorganization of the company, and thus relieve the stockholders of all embarrassment. If such action was deemed advisable, But nobody except Mr. Lecky resigned, the reorganization having been presided and Archie H. Harris secretary and manager."

Mr. Lecky's statement in full is as follows:

Lecky's Statement.

The publication in Sunday's Times-Dispatch by insinuation has so reflected upon me that I feel it my duty to state to the public of Richmond, as concisely as possible, all of the facts as I know them, and which are supported.

In 1904 the directors of the Virginia State Insurance Company contributed \$12,000 as a result of the Baltimore and other reorganizations occurring that year. Later on \$26,000 of this money was repaid as special dividends, leaving a balance due to these directors of \$44,000.

In December, 1910, for reasons stated on the back of the order of the company, in a letter of December 31 by the directors, the increase of the premiums during the year was so great as to cause an increase in the reserve funds of more than \$100,000, and they were together with the losses by fire, which were numerous, invaded the surplus, and each director, however included, contributed \$5,000 to the fund.

The reorganization of the company repays \$91,000 to the directors and adds \$12,000 to the assets of the company. It was on the basis of these figures, and the assumptions as to the errors made, I beg to say that none of these errors were discovered as a result of any examination, except as was conducted by myself, and on November 30, 1909, this condition was reported, in writing, in a general letter treating of the needs of the company. In the following language:

"It was on the back of Friday that the balance sheet to October 31 was prepared, and immediately thereafter I undertook the preparation of the annexed statement; the losses were listed and the reserve books added and calculated personally with the aid of the Virginia Department in January, 1910, and in January, 1911. The results of the January, 1910, examination were published broadcast by the insurance papers of this country."

Business Preserved.

The business of the company has been preserved, and we have only retired from States that were unprofitable, with the single exception of the State of New York, in which we could not continue, because of the laws of that State forbidding a company of our condition from doing so. The retirement from New York was as of December 31, 1902. All of the business in New York and Texas was reinsured and one-half of the business elsewhere in the country, and over risk possible for us to reinsure under the contract was included.

The business of the company, which was maintained and under day, January 31, 1910, the directors of